

Candidate Statement

Name: Stephanie Lake
Chapter: Saxony
Position: GOTV Coordinator
Gender: Female

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Hello, my name is Stephanie Lake and I'm running to be the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) coordinator. In Democrats Abroad (DA), getting out the vote means pursuing two goals. First, DA must make US citizens abroad aware of their right to vote and teach them how to practice it. Second, we must empower our members so they feel their actions matter even in Germany.

How would one do these two things? It encompasses open-minded and diverse tactics to reach as many Americans in Saxony as possible, such as organizing tabling events, asking organizations to share voter information directly, and building a supportive community.

As the acting GOTV coordinator, I'm experienced doing all the above. Soon after our chapter was born, I led four voter registration tabling events to get out the vote in Leipzig, Dresden, and Halle. Filling out forms to request the event, contacting city administration, enforcing COVID-19 hygiene rules, and helping volunteers feel confident by providing training are the most important responsibilities, all of which I enjoyed deeply. To supplement tabling, I led GOTV meetings to brainstorm and assign concrete tasks. One productive outcome was establishing contact with local organizations to share voter information. Such connections will be necessary for future GOTV efforts.

Voter information is vital, but it can also be overwhelming. We need leadership members with this expertise. Before the November 2020 election, I spent a lot of free time registering Americans overseas to vote and providing voter assistance. I'm excited to use my knowledge to simplify the voting process.

A unique way I help build our community is through our chapter book club. I'm proud of it, not only because I'm a literature nerd, but because it fulfills another purpose important to the Democrat platform: always question the status quo. As Democrats, we aim to improve the lives of all Americans, so we must remain vigilant and educate ourselves. Book club is a way to understand truly why we support what we support and identify effective solutions. Not only are our discussions enlightening, but we know how to have fun, too. (See our Halloween zoom party pics!)

I am excited to continue the GOTV effort and work with all members of our chapter to improve DA further. Let's get to work!